

CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACEPTION SERVICES

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?

Regulation 6 of the main statutory duties for Public Health that were conferred on local authorities by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires local authorities to provide, or make arrangements to secure the provision of comprehensive open access sexual health services (including free STI testing and treatment, notification of sexual partners of infected persons and free provision of contraception including Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and Emergency Contraception.)

Men who have sex with men, young people aged 15 – 24 years and specifically those living in more deprived areas, teenage parents and young people who are Looked After are identified as being at increased risk of poorer sexual health. Rates of teenage pregnancy are also higher in specific vulnerable groups including young people living in more deprived areas, those already teenage parents and young people who are Looked After.

There is good evidence to show that the provision of age appropriate, evidence based sex and relationships education and improving access to effective sexual health advice, treatment and support services for those at increased risk of poorer sexual health are the best ways of reducing rates of STIs and early unintended pregnancy therefore having health, social and economic benefits to the individual, their family and the wider community.

HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?

To fulfil the requirement in providing access to contraceptive and sexual health services across the borough the Authority have a range of contracts in place to deliver specific elements of the sexual health pathway these include the following elements:

- Clinical outreach sessions delivered in community settings including some which are specifically targeted at those under 25 years of age and/or identified as being at increased risk of teenage pregnancy.
- Pregnancy testing, support and referral.
- Access to targeted opportunistic Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea Screening for 15 – 24 year olds.
- Access to free Emergency Oral Hormonal Contraception in community pharmacies.
- Provision of free condoms via the C Card condom distribution scheme.
- Provision of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) where appropriate to women seeking contraceptive services from their GP.
- Free open access to STI testing and treatment services including HIV testing and sexual assault referral and support.
- Provision of an age appropriate sex and relationships education programme in schools and colleges across the Borough.

Service activity data shows the following:

- The number of contacts at the clinical outreach sessions is between 81 – 151 per month. 24% of which are new attenders with the remainder being review/follow up contacts.
- There were 407 contacts at community pharmacies in Darlington for Emergency Hormonal Contraception between April – September 2015.
- There were 821 contacts in general practice for LARC provision between April – September 2015.
- 23.5% of 15-24 year olds in Darlington were screened for Chlamydia in 2014
- 1,963 Darlington residents accessed a Specialist Sexual Health Service appointment between April – September 2015.
- The under 18 conception rate for Darlington in 2013 was 28.1 per 1,000 15 – 17 year old females compared to 64 per 1,000 in 1998. This equates to approximately 38 fewer pregnancies amongst under 18s in Darlington per year than were occurring when the teenage pregnancy strategy was introduced.

DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?

Yes - to achieve the required efficiencies it is proposed that the service will be remodelled to be more targeted to those at greatest risk of early unintended pregnancy and poorer sexual health.

The model for Chlamydia screening will be reshaped to reflect national evidence of effectiveness ensuring screening is targeted at those most likely to test positive for the disease. Specifically reducing large screening events where positivity rates are low.

WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?

2019/20 - £949,919

£221,000	Community Contraceptive Sexual Health Service contract (includes £40,000 for Emergency Contraception in pharmacies)
£74,250	LARC service provided by GP Surgeries.
£520,000	Open access Specialist Sexual Health Service
£61,620	Non contracted Specialist Sexual Health Service activity (to pay for the costs associated with Darlington residents who access Specialist Sexual Health Services in other Local Authority areas.
£44,000	Sex and Relationships Education Coordinator
£29,049	Overheads